

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6-11 having been canceled and claims 17 and 18 having never been entered, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-5 and 12-16 remain pending and properly under consideration in this application. The Applicants note that claims 15 and 16, having previously been deemed allowable, were not included in the claims on appeal and were not, therefore, specifically addressed in the Decision.

Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

The Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences affirmed the rejection of claims 1 and 6-11, including each of the pending independent claims, and reversed the rejection of claims 2-5 and 12-14. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that pursuant to the Decision, each of the dependent claims 2-5 and 12-16 has been deemed allowable, pending the satisfactory amendment to incorporate appropriate independent claim(s).

The Applicants submit that the amendment of claims 2 and 3 to incorporate the language of claim 1, and the amendment of claims 12 and 13 to incorporate the language of claim 11, is sufficient to convert claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 into proper independent form. The Applicants further submit that because claims 4, 5, 14, 15 and 16, depend from one of the newly independent claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 (as amended above), whether directly or indirectly, each of the dependent claims is also allowable.

The Applicants, therefore, submit that claims 2-5 and 12-16 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION


In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending rejections have been addressed and overcome or rendered moot through cancellation of the rejected claim(s), thereby leaving the present application in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any underpayment or non-payment of any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, or credit any overpayment of such fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-0750, including, in particular, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By: 
Gregory P. Brummett
Reg. No. 41,646

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000
DJD/GPB